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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/618,952	07/14/2003	Morgan D. Murphy	DP-309769	6410
22851	7590	06/27/2006	EXAMINER	
DELPHI TECHNOLOGIES, INC.			TO, TUAN C	
M/C 480-410-202			ART UNIT	
PO BOX 5052			PAPER NUMBER	
TROY, MI 48007			3663	

DATE MAILED: 06/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

The indicated allowability of claim 2 is withdrawn. The reference to Kajiyama read on the limitation "first lever arm is rotatably coupled to said mounting bracket and said second lever arm is rigidly secured to said floor bracket".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kajiyama (US 6841741B2) and in view of Aoki et al. (US 6774319B2).

With respect to claim 1, Kajiyama discloses an apparatus for estimating the weight of an occupant of a vehicle seat supposed by a floor bracket as claimed. Murphy discloses a sensor portion (51) shown in figure 1 for detecting load applied from the rail bracket to the base frame, and that the force transfer mechanism interposed between front and rear rail brackets located near front and rear seat rail located

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between the seat bracket and the sensor portion (51) (Kajiyama, column 1, lines 54-67; column 2, lines 1-15; column 7, lines 56-67).

The force transfer mechanism also includes first and second co-joined lever arms (61Fr, 61Rr) coupled to said floor bracket and said mounting bracket (Kajiyama, figure 3), where said lever arms terminate in first and second jaws (Kajiyama, figure 3, 66A) that engage said force sensor (51), in which the second lever arm is fixed to the base frame and the first lever arm is pivoted (Kajiyama, column 7, lines 5-12).

Kajiyama does disclose that occupant weight applied to said seat produces movement of said lever arms that increases said engagement force to the sensor portion (51) but Kajiyama is missing to disclose that said force sensor produces an output signal indicative of said occupant weight.

Aoki et al has been cited to overcome the missing features from Kajiyama. In Aoki et al, there is included a load sensor, and also included a teaching of force sensor produces an output signal indicative of the occupant weight (Aoki, abstract; figure 1).

Hence It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Kajiyama to include the teachings of Aoki et al. so that the safety devices presented in the vehicle are properly activated whether the occupant on the seat is an adult or a child.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5 and 6 are allowable.

Conclusions


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan C To whose telephone number is (571) 272-6985. The examiner can normally be reached on from 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Keith can be reached on 571-272-6878.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patent Examiner,


Tuan C To

June 19, 2006